

REMARKS

In response to the office action dated September 1, 2005, Applicant has amended claims 1, 43, 52, 60, 64, 67, and 70-75. Claims 1-75 are presented for examination.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-16, 20-36, 40-46, 48-55, 57-71, 74, and 75 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by 3M, WO 96/05264 ("3M"). The Examiner also rejected claims 37-39, 47, 56, 72, and 73 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over 3M.

Claims 1-16 and 20-51 require compositions that include a PHA containing at least one 3-hydroxybutyrate monomer. The compositions have a surface tack time value of at most about 15 seconds. When exposed to a pressure of at most about 100 psig, the compositions can form a bond with a surface or itself, the bond having a peel bond strength of at least about 10 Nm^{-2} . 3M does not disclose or suggest such compositions.

Claims 52-59 cover articles that include a substrate having a surface and a composition supported by the surface of the substrate. The composition includes a PHA containing at least one 3-hydroxybutyrate monomer. The composition has a surface tack time value of at most about 15 seconds, and the composition has an open time of at least about 70 minutes. 3M does not disclose or suggest such articles.

Claims 60-69 cover articles that include a substrate having a surface and a composition supported by the surface of the substrate. The composition includes a PHA containing at least one 3-hydroxybutyrate monomer. The PHA has a weight average molecular weight of from about 1,000 Daltons to about 900,000 Daltons, a crystallinity of from about 5% to about 65%, and a glass transition temperature of from about -40°C to about 20°C . When exposed to a pressure of at most about 100 psig, the composition can form a bond with a surface, the bond having a peel bond strength of at least about 10 Nm^{-2} . 3M does not disclose or suggest such articles.

Claim 70 covers methods that include (1) contacting a composition with a surface of an article and (2) processing the composition to form a layer having a surface tack time value of at most about 15 seconds. The composition contains a PHA and a solvent for the PHA. The PHA contains at least one 3-hydroxybutyrate monomer. When exposed to a pressure of at most about

100 psig, the layer can form a bond, the bond having a peel bond strength of at least about 10 Nm^{-2} . 3M does not disclose or suggest such methods.

Claim 71 covers methods includes that (1) pressing a PHA between at least two surfaces to form a pressed PHA and (2) separating the surfaces to expose the pressed PHA. The PHA contains at least one 3-hydroxybutyrate monomer. The pressed PHA has a surface tack time value of at most about 15 seconds. When exposed to a pressure of at most about 100 psig, the pressed PHA can form a bond with a surface, the bond having a peel bond strength of at least about 10 Nm^{-2} . 3M does not disclose or suggest such methods.

Claims 72-75 require compositions that include a first PHA and a second PHA. One of the first and second PHAs contains at least one 3-hydroxybutyrate monomer. The first PHA has a polydispersity index of at least about two or a difference between the weight average molecular weights of the first and second PHAs is at least about 1,000 Daltons. When exposed to a pressure of at most about 100 psig, the compositions can form a bond with a surface, the bond having a peel bond strength of at least about 10 Nm^{-2} . 3M does not disclose or suggest such compositions.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

The Examiner rejected claims 17-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over 3M in view of The Proctor and Gamble Company, WO 97/04036 ("P&G").

Claims 17-19 depend from claim 1, which is discussed above. Neither 3M nor P&G, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the compositions covered by claims 17-19. There is no suggestion to combine these two references to provide such compositions, and, even if the references were combined, the result would not be the compositions covered by claims 17-19. Thus, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Applicant believes that the application is now in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

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Page : 15 of 15

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Enclosed is a check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney's Docket No.: 14074-007001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1-31-06



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